AFP American Free Press
Vol VII #4 January 29, 2007 americanfreepress.net

**GENERALLY SPEAKING . . .** Former NATO Commander Gen. Wesley Clark (left) stands with former anti-gun icon Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) during a news conference in Washington to call on the Bush Administration to offer a new plan that will change the course in Iraq. President George W. Bush addressed the nation later that night to unveil his new plan for the war in Iraq which recommends sending 21,000 more troops to fight on the streets of Baghdad. In an interview with liberal "blogger" Arianna Huffington, Clark said that "New York" Zionist money was continuing to influence the war policies of the United States.
PHOTO BY ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

# Former General, Presidential Candidate Says `New York Money' Promotes War

**By Michael Collins Piper**

New York money is not only playing a big part in 2008 presidential campaign politics, but it's also a driving force behind the ongoing push by pro-Israel fanatics at the highest levels of U.S. policy-making to force the United States into a senseless war against Iran.

That's the only conclusion that can be reached based on a survey of recent news reports—circulating largely within publications in Israel and in the American Jewish community— that have not been brought to the attention of most Americans through the aegis of the so-called "mainstream media."

It's almost as if the major media in America is simply determined to prevent average Americans from knowing that there are some people who believe that Israel and its well-heeled financial backers in the United States are the primary advocates for U.S. military action against Iran.

Perhaps the most explosive comments in this regard came from Gen. Wesley Clark (ret.), who was a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2004 and who—until now, at least—was considered a likely candidate for the Democratic nod in 2008. In a recent interview with columnist Arianna Huffington, Clark said that he believed that the Bush administration is determined to wage war against Iran.

When asked why he believed this, Clark said:

> You just have to read what's in the Israeli press. The Jewish community is divided but there is so much pressure being channeled from the New York money people to the office seekers.

In short, Clark was saying that powerful New York-based financial interests (those whom he called "the New York money people") are putting pressure on political candidates and incumbent politicians to support a war against Iran.

In fact, Clark is correct. Jewish community newspapers have indeed noted, time and again over the past several years, that many in the American Jewish community and in Israel are urging U.S. military action against Iran. And in Israel, of course, the bellicose talk of Israel itself attacking Iran is commonly and publicly discussed with free abandon. All of this is little known to the American public.

Despite this, Clark has now come under fire and is being accused of "anti-Semitism" or otherwise charged with lending credence to what are dismissed as "anti-Israel and anti- Jewish conspiracy theories," which—Clark's critics say—suggest that Israel and its supporters are prime movers behind the drive for war.

Because Clark is the son of a Jewish father (although he didn't know that until several years ago, having been raised by a Christian mother and a Christian step-father who never told Clark of his Jewish heritage), some Jewish leaders are pulling their punches, recognizing that it sounds somewhat outlandish to call Clark "anti-Jewish." But the word is definitely out in the American Jewish community: "Clark can't be trusted."

On Jan. 12, one of the nation's most distinguished Jewish community newspapers, the New York-based ***Forward***, carried a front-page story zinging Clark for his remarks noting that, "The phrase 'New York money people' struck unpleasant chords with many pro-Israel activists. They interpreted it as referring to the Jewish community, which is known for its significant financial donations to political candidates."

The fact that Jewish leaders and publications are attacking Clark for using the term "New York money people" is ironic, inasmuch as just the week before the furor over Clark's comments arose, the same ***Forward*** newspaper, in its own Jan. 5 issue, had a front-page story announcing that pro-Israel stalwart U.S. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) had lined up significant financial support for his own forthcoming presidential campaign from those whom—in its own headline—***Forward*** called "New York money men."

In that revealing article, describing McCain's "heavily Jewish finance committee," ***Forward*** announced that, in recent weeks, "McCain has been signaling that an attention to Jewish issues will remain on his agenda as his campaign moves forward." The Jewish newspaper did not mention whether McCain will direct any attention to Christian, Muslim, Buddhist or Hindu issues—or any other issues of concern to other religious groups. The article in ***Forward*** made it clear that support from these "New York money men" is critical in the forthcoming presidential campaign and that it could be pivotal, whether that money stays in McCain's camp or ultimately goes elsewhere.

This information could prove a surprise to grass-roots Republicans all over America who think (apparently incorrectly) that they are the ones who actually pick their party's presidential nominee.

In addition, in light of the fact that Jewish groups have attacked Clark for suggesting that "New York money people" were pressuring political candidates to push for war against Iran, it is interesting to note that ***Forward*** pointed out that one of the key "New York money men" supporting McCain cited the issue of Iran as one of the reasons why he was boosting the Arizona senator.

Dr. Ben Chouake, who is president of the pro-Israel NORPAC, a political action committee, and a member of McCain's finance committee, was cited as having remarked that Iran is "an immense threat to the United States, and this is an immense threat to Israel," and that "the person that is the most capable, most experienced, most courageous to defend our country, would be John McCain."

Clearly, the "New York money people" are playing a major part in the American political arena, throwing their weight behind who gets elected—and who doesn't—and whether or not America goes to war. That's something that Americans need to know about, but they had better not count on the mass media to tell them about it.

A journalist specializing in media critique, Michael Collins Piper is the author of ***Final Judgment***, the controversial "underground bestseller" documenting the collaboration of Israeli intelligence in the assassination of John F. Kennedy. He is also the author of ***The High Priests of War***, ***The New Jerusalem***, ***The Judas Goats***, and ***Dirty Secrets***, all available from First Amendment Books and America First Books. He has lectured on suppressed topics in places as diverse as Malaysia, Japan, Canada, Russia and Abu Dhabi.

(Issue #5, January 29, 2007, AMERICAN FREE PRESS)